

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A frame for use as part of a sheet material mounting assembly, comprising:
an upper channel ²² having an upper flange ²⁴ defined therein;
a first leg ²⁶ connected to the upper channel; and
a second leg ²⁸ connected to the upper channel.
2. The frame of claim 1, wherein the upper channel is approximately rectangular-shaped.
3. The frame of claim 2, wherein
the first leg is adapted to be connected to a support structure; and
the second leg is adapted to rest against the support structure.
4. A frame assembly for use as part of a sheet material mounting assembly, comprising:
a lower frame ³⁰, the lower frame including a stop segment ³², an upper frame segment ³⁴ connected to and approximately perpendicular to the stop segment and extending upward away from the stop segment, and a lower frame segment ³⁶ connected to and approximately perpendicular to the stop segment and extending downward away from the stop segment; and
a tension frame member ³⁸ adjustably connected to the lower frame so that
the tension frame member can move relative to the stop.
5. The frame assembly of claim 4, wherein the tension frame member includes:

an upper tension segment;⁴²

an intermediate segment⁴⁴ connected to and approximately perpendicular to the upper tension segment;

a lower tension segment⁴⁶ connected to and approximately perpendicular to the intermediate segment, the lower tension segment including a lower channel having a lower flange⁵⁰ defined therein;

the upper tension segment extending upward away from the intermediate segment and the lower tension segment extending downward away from the intermediate segment;

a nut segment⁵² connected to and approximately perpendicular to the intermediate segment, the nut segment extending upward away from the intermediate segment; and

wherein the upper tension segment and the nut segment form a nut⁵⁴ channel.

15 6. The frame assembly of claim 5, wherein the lower channel is approximately rectangular-shaped.

7. The frame assembly of claim 6, wherein:

the upper frame segment includes a frame tab⁴⁸ extending outward away from and approximately perpendicular to the upper frame segment; and

20 the upper and lower frame segments are offset from and approximately parallel to each other.

8. The frame assembly of claim 7, wherein the lower frame is adapted to be connected to a support structure.

9. A sheet material assembly, comprising:

an upper frame;

an adjustable lower frame assembly;

sheet material, having an upper sheet tab inserted into the upper frame and a lower sheet tab attached to the adjustable lower frame assembly, extending between the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly; and

wherein the adjustable lower frame assembly can be adjusted to vary the tension in the sheet material between the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly.

10. The assembly of claim 9, wherein:

the upper frame includes an upper channel having an upper flange defined therein; and

the adjustable lower frame assembly includes a lower channel having a lower flange defined therein.

11. The assembly of claim 10, wherein the upper and lower sheet tabs are wedge-shaped.

12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein the upper and lower channels are approximately rectangular-shaped channels.

13. The assembly of claim 12, wherein the adjustable lower frame assembly includes:

a lower frame having a stop defined therein; and

a tension frame member adjustably connected to the lower frame so that

5 the tension frame member can move relative to the stop.

14. The assembly of claim 13, wherein the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly are mounted on a support structure.

15. The assembly of claim 14, wherein the support structure includes a truck, building, or billboard.

16. A method of mounting sheet material, comprising the steps of:

inserting an upper sheet tab connected to the sheet material into an upper frame;

attaching a lower sheet tab connected to the sheet material to an adjustable lower frame assembly; and

15 adjusting the adjustable lower frame assembly so that the sheet material is pulled taut between the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of inserting the upper sheet tab into the upper frame includes the steps of:

inserting the upper sheet tab into an upper channel defined in the upper
20 frame; and

pulling the upper sheet tab against an upper flange defined in the upper channel.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of inserting the upper sheet tab into the upper channel includes the step of inserting a wedge-shaped upper sheet tab into the upper channel.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of attaching the lower sheet tab to the adjustable lower frame assembly includes the step of inserting the lower sheet tab into the adjustable lower frame assembly.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of inserting the lower sheet tab into the lower frame assembly includes the steps of:

inserting the lower sheet tab into a lower channel defined in the lower frame assembly; and

pulling the lower sheet tab against a lower flange defined in the lower channel.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of inserting the lower sheet tab into the lower channel includes the step of inserting a wedge-shaped lower sheet tab into the lower channel.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

mounting the upper frame on a support structure; and

mounting the lower frame assembly on the support structure below the upper frame.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of mounting the lower frame assembly on the support structure includes the steps of:

mounting a lower frame to the support structure; and

adjustably connecting a tension frame member to the lower frame so

5 that the tension frame member can move relative to a stop defined in the lower frame.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of adjustably connecting the tension frame member to the lower frame includes the steps of:

inserting a nut in a nut channel defined in the tension frame member;

and

passing a bolt through the stop defined in the lower frame and the tension frame member into engagement with the nut.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the steps of mounting the upper frame and the lower frame assembly on the support structure include the steps of mounting the upper frame and lower frame assembly on a truck, building, or billboard.

Handwritten signature